

One Ilfracombe Town Team

Wednesday 19th February

Meeting Notes

Attendees

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| Neil Ingram (Chair) – One Ilfracombe Projects | Rob Townsend – ITC - Maintenance |
| Charmain Lovett – One Ilfracombe Projects | Ade Drury – Ilfracombe Police |
| Gavin Pennington-Ellis – ITC Facilities Manager | Bert Gear – ITC Cllr |
| June Williams – ITC & NDC Cllr | Steve Trebble – Chairman Ilfracombe in Bloom |
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1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending
2. Apologies received from representatives from DCC, NDC, IBTA.
3. Written report from Alex Bird - Neighbourhood Highway Officer (DCC)
 - Patching on Old Barnstaple Rd and Marlborough Road has just commenced. Old Barnstaple Road is closed 17th-20th, Marlborough Road is 21-26th.
 - New Barnstaple Rd is closed for structures' work to the retaining wall 24th Feb – 16th May.
 - Killacleave roundabout drainage work has just commenced (18th Feb - 17th March)
 - The 'Old Museum Road' down by Runnymede Gardens will likely be closed for some time unfortunately. This is depending on land owner action and may have to undergo the legal process.
(Post meeting note – NI has email'd Alex Bird as the Road Closed signage is inadequate to prevent people using the damaged road/pathway – response is that some Heras fencing will be erected)
 - Patching works have recently been completed at Fern Way.
 - Elastomac patching works are planned for Whittingham Rd and Furze Hill. Furze Hill is overdue so I will chase this with the contractor.
 - Score Valley road and bridge repair is underway.
 - Works are generally winding down for the year as we approach the end of the financial year. This has no effect on safety related works of course.
4. Local issues raised and officially reported:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour – it has been reported from numerous sources that a group of children (ages 10-14) had caused damage to several flower tubs on Church Street alongside their behaviour in the High St Co-op resulting in its early closure over the weekend. These are not isolated incidents. Ade Drury stated that the Police are aware and although arresting these individuals would appear to be the solution it is more complicated than that, but needless to say they will continue to work on finding a solution.
 - Cllr Elliott reported that the crossing outside Co-op, which was repainted and peeled straight away was promised to be rectified. Please can this be followed up as it's really bad now and a contractor will have been paid public money to do a really bad job so they must come back to put it right. **Action: Chair to raise with DCC**
 - Drains – there continues to be a problem with blocked drains across the entire town. **Action: Chair will speak to DCC Highways to get an update on what their plans are to rectify this.** In the short term thanks to some Devon County Council locality funding from Cllr Crabb a

programme of drain clearance works is being delivered 18th - 20th Feb by a private company to clear those drains identified by the public via social media as the worse across the town.

- Cow Lane – reported by Cllr Elliott request for this to be swept and all the silt and grass that has built up along the side to be removed. Also ivy at the top to be cut back which is narrowing the path.

Action: Chair will report this to DCC and also to ITC Volunteers Officer to assess what can be done to address this

- Issue raised at ITC Full Council by a member of the public from Burnside, Slade in relation to overgrowing trees. Chair has spoken to town team partners at NDH and a plan of work has been implemented.
- NDH have raised an issue in relation to roadside weeds undermining the concrete around several properties. **Action: Chair will raise with DCC**

5. Gull Talk Event – There will be a talk by a Gull expert, Mr Peter Rock, on 20th March 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Lantern. Here he will explain about gull behaviour and what mitigation we can take to stop them attacking waste and nesting inland. More details to follow with ITC/OI having agreed to assist in the promotion of the event via their social media channels and at any networking opportunities that arise between now and the event.

6. Ilfracombe in Bloom – Steve Trebble (Chair of Ilfracombe in Bloom) outlined some of their plans for 2025 and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Ilfracombe in Bloom.

These included areas such as the War Memorial, Mullacott, planters around town, lamppost stations, wild flower meadows, Victoria Place development and ceremonial tree planting.

A discussion followed to establish which of the currently maintained ITC areas could be adopted by Ilfracombe in Bloom. This was left with the ITC Facilities and Maintenance Team and Ilfracombe in Bloom to formulate a plan between them.

The Chair informed the group that Victoria Place was also being explored as a potential site for some street art which would complement the Ilfracombe in Bloom plans in this area.

He also suggested that the route into Ilfracombe (via Hele) was neglected with a focus on Mullacott and Marlborough Road.

Further discussion to take place in relation to this and the flower boat and grassed area opposite the Haggington Hill Car Park.

It was also suggested that as Cytiva were also looking at sponsoring an area this would be an ideal spot.

With the Town Team Chair also being the Chair for Hele Community Group he mentioned that with the arches on Hele Prom now being owned by ITC that sowing wild flowers on top of these was a current plan. Steve Trebble offered to grow some of these which could then be placed on the arches. Rob Townsend mentioned that using pots on the “roof” may be a good idea. It was confirmed by Cllr Gear that the roof is solid stone and weight bearing.

Action: The Chair offered to assist in any online promotion of Ilfracombe in Blooms 40th anniversary works using ITC and OI social media channels. Steve Trebble to pass on Ilfracombe in Bloom social media manager contact details.

Action: The Chair will discuss Ilfracombe in Bloom works in the Hele area out of meeting.

7. Ilfracombe Cultural Plan – issues that related to core Town Team business were raised at the last meeting of the Ilfracombe Culture Team:

- Street Art – The Chair updated the group in relation to the procedures for planning any art work across the town. In short this is to be run via him as part of an agreement with NDC Planning. There are current plans on the table for Victoria Place, Fore Street and in Ropery Road Car Park.
- Trail & Information Signs – It was raised at the last Culture Team meeting that the “Fish Trail” and general information signs around town could do with a clean.
Action: The Chair, working with the ITC Volunteers Officer and NDC Property Services has a cunning plan for this to happen pre-Easter.
- Parish Council Notice Boards – At the Culture meeting it was stressed that not everyone uses social media and the use of the physical notice boards would help promote events etc.
Action: The Chair will establish the location of ITC/OI noticeboards and when necessary replace like for like. A system can then be put into place for their use. Any additional funding required will be requested via the ITC Finance & General Purpose Committee.

8. AOB

8a. Neil Ingram

The Chair informed the group that he has approached the Proper Officer was a suggestion that the position of Town Team Chair be passed to a non ITC or One Ilfracombe affiliated member of the community, potentially one of the unsuccessful candidates for the latest vacant ITC Cllr post? This would then afford him more time to address the actions that arise at Town Team and also align it with the structure of the One Ilfracombe Living Well group.

8b. Rob Townsend

- Speed signs on the Old Barnstaple Road are inconsistent. One direction gives speed limit signs of 30mph whilst other in the other direction indicate the National Speed limit.
Action: Chair to raise with DCC
- The tree at Victoria Place has still not been cut back and is now physically touching the buildings on either side.
Action: Chair to raise with DCC.
- With ITC continuing to pick up the slack for tasks that are the responsibility of DCC is there any funding available to purchase equipment for the undertaking of these tasks on their behalf? A discussion followed. **Action: ITC & OI staff to come up with a list of required equipment (with costings) this will then be forwarded to DCC for consideration and hopefully payment.**

8c. Ade Drury

- The cohort of street drinkers is thinning out due to behind the scene work with numerous local organisations
- In response to a concern about anti social behaviour in Lidl and elsewhere raised by Cllr Williams, Ade repeated the position of the police as covered in para 4 of these notes.

8d. Cllr Gear

Expressed concern that all the hard work undertaken by Combe Christmas teams past and present would be undermined by there not being a suitable solution to the deterioration and subsequent

inability to use the catenary wires spanning the High Street. Gavin P-E explained the level of the deterioration, safety testing procedures and the main issues whilst the Chair informed the meeting that this issue was being investigated and a solution sought via the Ilfracombe Regeneration Board and the Town Regeneration (High Street focus) element of the Ilfracombe Regeneration Strategy.

9. Date of next meetings: (all 1030 at The Ilfracombe Centre & Online)

19th March, 23rd April, 14th May, 18th June, 23rd July, 3rd Sept, 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 17th Dec